not understand why they should obey this group of individuals. Facing an order emanating from the new government, they would ask their Soviet whether they should execute it. Once they had obtained assurance that the order was all right, they complied because of their confidence in their elected representatives. After pledging its support to the Provisional Government, the Petrograd Soviet tried to endorse governmental orders in advance by saying to the people, "As long as the Soviet supports the government, you must execute its orders as if they came from us." Such a blanket endorsement often proved insufficient, however, so that the Soviet had to reiterate the general rule time and again with regard to specific governmental orders. Thus masses of the people became more and more convinced that the authority of the Provisional Government depended wholly on Soviet support, which was partly true although the government tried to forget this hard reality.

Moreover, in the turmoil of the first days of the revolution, when there was no public authority in the country, the Soviet had issued proclamations and orders that should have come from the government, and these orders could not be repealed without provoking serious trouble and possible outbursts of violence. The most significant of these were the "Order Number 1" to the Petrograd garrison and the "Message to All Peoples of the World."

"Order Number 1" was issued on March 14 in an effort to restore discipline in the Petrograd garrison. Its chief purpose was to remind the soldiers that they had to obey the orders of the civil authorities. As such an authority, the Soviet ordered the soldiers to elect regimental and company committees, send representatives to the Tauride Palace, and follow the instructions of the Soviet and their elected committees in all political actions. It further prescribed execution of service orders of the Duma Committee (unless contradictory to the Soviet's orders) and instructed the elected committees to keep control over the arms of their respective military units. It demanded, further, observance of strict military discipline in service while stating at the same time that soldiers out of service were entitled to all civil rights. This order was issued before the Provisional Government was formed and therefore could not be described as a case of diarchy. But without power to repeal it, the government, military High Command, and conservative circles continued to regard Order No. 1 as a thorn in the flesh.

The other act branded as diarchy by the rightist groups was an appeal to the people of the world issued by the Soviet on March 27:

Conscious of its revolutionary power, Russian democracy declares that it will oppose the aggressive policy of the ruling classes by all